

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 AID-20 OMB-01 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /141 W

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P 150415 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1680

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8530

FOL TEL SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG MAY 14 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0501

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, MAY 14

1. SECURITY SITUATION: THE INCIDENCE, INTENSITY, AND TYPE OF MILITARY ACTIONS REPORTED OVER PAST 72- HOUR PERIOD APPROXIMATED THAT OF PRECEEDING COUPLE OF WEEKS. OF TOTAL OF 37 INCIDENTS, 12 OCCURRED IN BINH DINH, TEN IN PHU YEN, AND REMAINDER WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT BINH THUAN, PHU BON, KONTUM, PLEIKU, QUANG DUC, AND NINH THUAN. INCIDENTS INCLUDED: TEN ENEMY HARRASSMENTS BY FIRE; SEVEN ENEMY GROUND ASSAULTS; SEVEN MININGS OF RVNAF UNITS; FOUR FIRE FIGHTS BETWEEN ENEMY AND RVNAF UNITS ON PATROL; FOUR RVNAF SEARCH OPERATIONS LEADING TO DESTRUCTION OF ENEMY BUNKERS, PROVISIONS, ETC.; FOUR ENEMY MININGS OF CIVILIANS; AND ONE SUCCESSFUL RVNAF MECHANICAL AMBUSH. CASUALTY AGGREGATES: ENEMY: 42 KIA, FIVE CAPTURED, AND TEN VC SUSPECTS DETAINED; RVNAF: EIGHT KIA, 15 WIA AND 14 CIVILIANS KILLED AND NINE WOUNDED BY VC MINES.

2. MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE ACTION WAS EARLY MORNING MAY 13 GROUND
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ASSAULT ON TWO COMPANIES OF ARVN 22 ND DIVISION IN OUTPOST SITUATED IN SOUTHEASTERN WEDGE OF HOAI AN DISTRICT, BINH DINH. VC ATTACK FAILED TO PENETRATE OUTPOST PERIMETER, ARVN COUNTERATTACKED, AND RESULTING ENEMY LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS 16 KILLED, TWO MACHINE GUNS AND TEN INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED. NO ARVN LOSSES WERE REPORTED.

3. THREE OF FOUR VC MININGS OF CIVILIANS OCCURRED IN PHU YEN, BUT MOST SERIOUS ONE WAS IN PLEIKU WHERE GROUP OF WOOD CUTTERS DETONATED MINE WHICH KILLED EIGHT AND WOUNDED SIX OF THEIR NUMBER.

4. WESTERN STRETCH OF ROUTE 7 B IN PHU YEN, BETWEEN WESTERN EDGE OF TUY HOA VALLEY AND BORDER WITH PHU BON, REMAINS CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, EASTERN PORTION OF ROAD, BETWEEN SONG HOA DISTRICT TOWN AND TUY HOA DISTRICT, IS NOW BEING PLYED BY BICYCLE AND HONDA- BORNE CIVILIANS. ACCORDING TO COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY PHU YEN SECTOR, THESE TRAVELERS NOT ONLY HAVE TO BRAVE TENUOUS SECURITY SITUATION ON ROAD, BUT MUST ALSO PAY TRIBUTE FOR PASSAGE TO GVN TROOPS ALONG ROUTE.

5. TWO VNAF AIRCRAFT CRASHED DUE TO MECHANICAL FAILURE DURING PERIOD: FIRST CRASH WAS C-47 "SPOOKY" ON MORNING OF MAY 11 IN NINH THUAN (FIVE CREWMEN KILLED, TWO INJURED); SECOND MISHAP WAS L-19 FLYING COVER FOR ARVN CONVOY OVER TUYEN DUC ON MAY 12 (PILOT KILLED, OBSERVER INJURED).

6. ICCS: BINH THUAN POLOFF REPORTS THAT REGION IV ICCS, WITH ALL PARTIES PARTICIPATING, INVESTIGATED MAY 4 ASSASSINATION OF HAMLET CHIEF IN WESTERNMOST BINH THUAN PROVINCE. INVESTIGATION ALSO SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11 ROAD MINING INCIDENT ON ROUTE 23 IN BINH TUY (YS-933772) WHICH REPORTEDLY COST LIVES OF THREE PERSONS INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN.

7. POLOFF LAM DONG REPORTS POLES, WHO ARE CHAIRING BAO LOC ICCS TEAM THIS WEEK, HAVE CALLED MEETING FOR MORNING OF MAY 14 TO DISCUSS INVESTIGATION OF APRIL 18 CHI LAP BRIDGE INCIDENT. ALL FOUR NATIONAL COMPONENTS HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS TO INVESTIGATE THIS INCIDENT ON BASIS OF FOUR- PARTY OBSERVATION REPORT MADE TWO WEEKS AGO. CANDEL HAS TOLD LAM DONG POLOFF THAT THEY WILL REFUSE TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT.
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DENT, AS THEY MAINTAIN THAT OBSERVATION REPORT ALREADY SUBMITTED IS ADEQUATE TO PLACE BLAME FOR VIOLATION. POLOFF STATES THIS CANADIAN ATTITUDE IS DISCONCERTING HUNGARIANS, AND PROBABLY POLES, AS WELL. POLOFF SPECULATES PERHAPS EAST EUROPEANS WERE ATYPICALLY LAX ON OBSERVATION REPORT IN QUESTION.

8. PA& E EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR ICCS IN BAO LOC STILL GROUSING

ABOUT FAILURE TO RECEIVE WAGES. NEARLY ALL ARE THREE TO FOUR
PAY PERIODS BEHIND.

9. PLEI DJERENG RANGER CAMP: PLEIKU POLOFF HAS VISITED PLEI
DJERENG RANGER CAMP IN NORTHWESTERN PART OF PROVINCE SOME
25 KMS FROM NEAREST GVN AREA OF CONTROL. VC/ NVA OVERRAN
AND DESTROYED THE CAMP IN SPRING OF 1972; IT HAS SINCE BEEN
REBUILT. AT BASE OF HILL ON WHICH RANGER CAMP SITS IS PLEI
DOCH HAMLET WHERE SOME 3,000 PEOPLE WERE RESETTLED IN 1967 UNDER
THE SECURITY WING OF THE SPECIAL FORCES. PLEI DOCH HAS BEEN
COMPLETELY ABANDONED SINCE THE 1972 SPRING OFFENSIVE,
ALTHOUGH SOME FORMER MONTAGNARD RESIDENTS STILL COME TO
HARVEST MANIOC GROWING IN AND AROUND THE HAMLET. THE
REMAINING MONTAGNARDS IN THE AREA NOW RESIDE IN SEVERAL
SETTLEMENTS SOME TWO OR THREE KMS FROM THE RANGER CAMP.
THE VC HAVE WARNED THEM THAT IF THEY RETURN TO PLEI DOCH
TO RESIDE, THEY WILL ALL BE KILLED. THEY TAKE THE VC AT
THEIR WORD. RANGERS AT PLEI DJERENG CAMP DO NOT VENTURE OUTSIDE
FOR THESE NEARBY MONTAGNARD SETTLEMENTS. ACCORDING TO POLOFF,
THE LOCAL MONTAGNARDS APPEAR TO BE MORE UNDER THE INFLUENCE
OF THE VC THAN OF THE GVN.

10. THE RANGERS ARE NOT MAKING CONTACT WITH VC/ NVA FORCES WHO
HAVE MAJOR BASE AREAS NEARBY AND THEY SELDOM DEVELOP INFORMATION
ABOUT ENEMY LOCATIONS.

ENGLE

UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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